

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's allowance of claim 10 is respectfully acknowledged. Claim 10 has been amended at lines 20-25 based on steps S23, S24, and S27 in Fig. 8, and the corresponding disclosure in the specification. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment to claim 10 be approved and entered. It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that claim 10 remains in condition for allowance.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to make some clarifying amendments.

Claim 5, which the Examiner has withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a tag reader/writer that is a different species from the digital camera of claim 1, has been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claim 5 be considered on the merits. Claim 5 has also been amended to make some clarifying amendments.

Claim 11 has been amended to be a method claim reciting subject matter along the lines of claim 1.

Claim 12, which the Examiner has withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a method for a tag reader/writer that is a different species from the method for the digital camera of claim 11, has been amended to depend from claim 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claim 12 be considered on the merits. Claim 12 has also been amended to make some clarifying amendments. And claim 12 has been amended to recite transmitting the image data or the electronic tag information displayed on the display device in response to a manual instruction issued after a user confirms a display of the image data or the electronic tag information.

No new matter has been added. It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US 2005/0103840 ("Boles"), and claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Boles and USP 7,333,001 ("Lane et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites a digital camera comprising: an image capture device which captures image data of an article in response to a shutter operation; a display device

which displays the image data of the article captured by the image capture device; an electronic tag reader which reads, using a wireless transmission, electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article; a determining device which determines whether or not writing of the image data of the article captured by the image capture device into the electronic tag is permitted based on the electronic tag information read by the electronic tag reader; and a tag writer which writes the image data of the article captured by the image capture device into the electronic tag when the determining device determines that the writing of the image data is permitted.

Amended independent claim 11 recites an electronic tag read/write method for a digital camera, the method comprising: capturing image data of an article by an image capture device in response to a manual operation of a shutter button; displaying the image data of the article captured by the image capture device on a display device; reading electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, by an electronic tag reader using a wireless transmission, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article; determining whether or not writing of the image data of the article captured by the image capture device into the electronic

tag is permitted based on the read electronic tag information; and writing the image data of the article into the electronic tag by an electronic tag writer when the writing of the image data is permitted.

With this structure and method, it is possible to use a digital camera to capture image data of an article as well as to read electronic tag information from an electronic tag and write the captured image data into the electronic tag. Thus, the image data and the electronic tag information can be managed in an efficient manner via the usual image capture operation of the digital camera.

Amended independent claims 1 and 11 recite a digital camera and a method for a digital camera in which the digital camera comprises an electronic tag reader and in which electronic tag information is read from an electronic tag attached to an article when the image capture device of the digital camera captures image data of the article.

Neither Boles nor Lane et al discloses or suggests these features of claims 1 and 11.

As the Examiner recognizes, Boles discloses a scanning electron microscope 11 (an image capture device). According to Boles, the microscope 11 captures images of, for example, a gem stone 12. The images are output to a computer 1, which encrypts the images and which controls an inductive writer 6 to write the

encrypted images in a memory 8 of a RFID tag 7. See, for example, paragraphs [0034]-[0037] of Boles.

As the Examiner points out on page 7 of the Office Action, Boles also discloses reading information from RFID tags. Boles, however, merely discloses that the computer controlled reader/writer 6 can read a tag attached to an object. See, for example, paragraph [0042] of Boles.

Boles does not disclose that the microscope 11 comprises the reader/writer 6. Boles also does not disclose reading electronic tag information when the image capture device captures the image data of the article.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Boles does not disclose, teach or suggest a digital camera comprising an electronic tag reader which reads, using a wireless transmission, electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article, as recited in claim 1. And it is respectfully submitted that Boles does not disclose, teach or suggest an electronic tag read/write method for a digital camera, wherein the method comprises reading electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, by an electronic tag reader using a wireless transmission, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article.

Lane et al, moreover, discloses an RFID reader 10 but does not disclose or suggest a digital camera comprising an electronic tag reader.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Lane et al does not disclose, teach or suggest a digital camera comprising an electronic tag reader which reads, using a wireless transmission, electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article, as recited in claim 1. And it is respectfully submitted that Lane et al does not disclose, teach or suggest an electronic tag read/write method for a digital camera, wherein the method comprises reading electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, by an electronic tag reader using a wireless transmission, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that even if Lane et al were combinable with Boles in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the features of amended independent claims 1 and 11 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that amended independent claims 1 and 11, and all of the claims respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Boles

and Lane et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102
as well as under 35 USC 103, along with allowed claim 10.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the
passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt
action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
220 Fifth Avenue - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10001-7708
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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